

CONGRESSWOMAN

MARY BONO MACK

"For me, the issue of drug abuse is very personal."



ABOVE: Congresswoman Bono Mack speaks to students visiting the Capitol.

BELOW: Congresswoman Bono Mack being presented with the 2009 Guardian Award by the Partnership for a Drug-Free America in recognition of her legislative leadership on issues related to drug and alcohol abuse.



Dear Friend,

Drug abuse and addiction affects virtually every family in America. Many families in our District, my own included, have been personally touched by this issue.

The fact is - drug and alcohol addiction is preventable and treatable. It is critical that Congress understands the tremendous cost of inaction and that we do what we can to address this issue.

Thus far, much progress has been made, but there are many opportunities ahead - including to improve the way our health policy addresses addiction treatment and prevention and also to continue to invest more in research that will help save lives and improve quality of life.

Recently, I attended the Summit of the Americas, which brought together Heads of State and Governments of the Western Hemisphere to discuss common concerns and find solutions to our region's most pressing problems - drug abuse and addiction was one of the most discussed topics at the Summit. I had the opportunity to speak with President Obama and Secretary Clinton, along with several leaders of Latin American countries about the importance of curbing demand for illegal drugs.

We need to take decisive action that will make sure that Americans - especially our youth - aren't helping to fuel the drug trade. I look forward to continuing to be a leader in this effort and am committed to finding meaningful solutions that will help end the cycle of drug abuse and addiction in our country.

Sincerely,

Mary Bono Mack

Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack

Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack Is Taking Steps to Prevent Substance Abuse:

The Dextromethorphan Distribution Act

Congresswoman Bono Mack supported bipartisan legislation to better control the highly addictive and potentially dangerous substance used in cough syrup – dextromethorphan (DXM). The Dextromethorphan Distribution Act will help curb the alarming increase in DXM abuse – especially among youth – in recent years.

Fighting to Increase Funding for Prevention Programs

Since 2002, funding for addiction prevention programs has decreased by 25 percent. Emphasizing that investing in prevention saves money in the long run, Congresswoman Bono Mack is working to expand funding for programs that will keep Americans from using in the first place and also incorporate prevention and treatment programs into broader health care reforms.

Educating the Public About Substance Abuse and Prevention

Congresswoman Mary Bono Mack understands the need to educate the public on the dangers of substance abuse and the ways to prevent it. That is why she has been invited as the keynote speaker at numerous forums and local events and has worked closely with the Partnership for a Drug-Free America to effectively raise awareness and address this issue on the national scale.

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Fast Facts on Drug Abuse

- Only 2,400,000 of the more than 22,000,000 Americans who are dependent on drugs received treatment in 2007
- Drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse costs our country over \$500,000,000,000 each year
- Drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse impacts 100,000,000 people's lives, either directly or indirectly
- Every dollar invested in treatment for addiction yields a return of \$4 to \$7 in reduced drug-related crime and costs

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M.C.
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"Drug abuse and addiction affect virtually every family in America, devastating millions of lives and costing our nation billions of dollars.

If you need help or to learn how you can fight drug abuse, go to: www.drugfree.org.

- Mary Bono Mack

You can also find Mary on:



<http://www.youtube.com/BonoMackCA45>

<http://twitter.com/MaryBonoMack>

<http://bonomack.house.gov>